

First Joint Meeting of AECCS August 31, 2004



All five work groups come together for the first time – Diana Courson helps all to see how they are part of a larger puzzle.



Priscilla Mark-Wilson, of Health Systems Research, Inc. catches the Arkansas group up on what other states are doing. She states that Arkansas is helping to lead the way with the progress made so far.



Tonya Russell, Director of the DHS Division of Child Care & Early Childhood Education addresses the group.



Attendees included work group members, Arkansas Early Childhood Commission members, guests (Eva Carter- NCCIC), and agency heads.



Afternoon Work Group Sessions



Carolene Thornton with the Parent Education work group, seeking to increase statewide awareness and utilization of parent education services.



Family Support Work Group in afternoon session -- their goal for the day was to explore ways to map currently available family resources and facilitate access to these services across the state.



Sandra Reifeiss with Early Care & Ed work group. They are seeking to create a true picture of "quality" in early childhood settings, then develop an infrastructure that supports that quality.



Deborah Gangluff guides Medical Homes group as they plan for a campaign to enroll more children in ARKids 1st.



Patti Bokony and Bruce Cohen discuss the barriers to and strategies for mapping funding, training and service resources across the state with the Social Emotional Health Work Group.



Group members were able to see the “big picture” and get a vision for the task ahead.